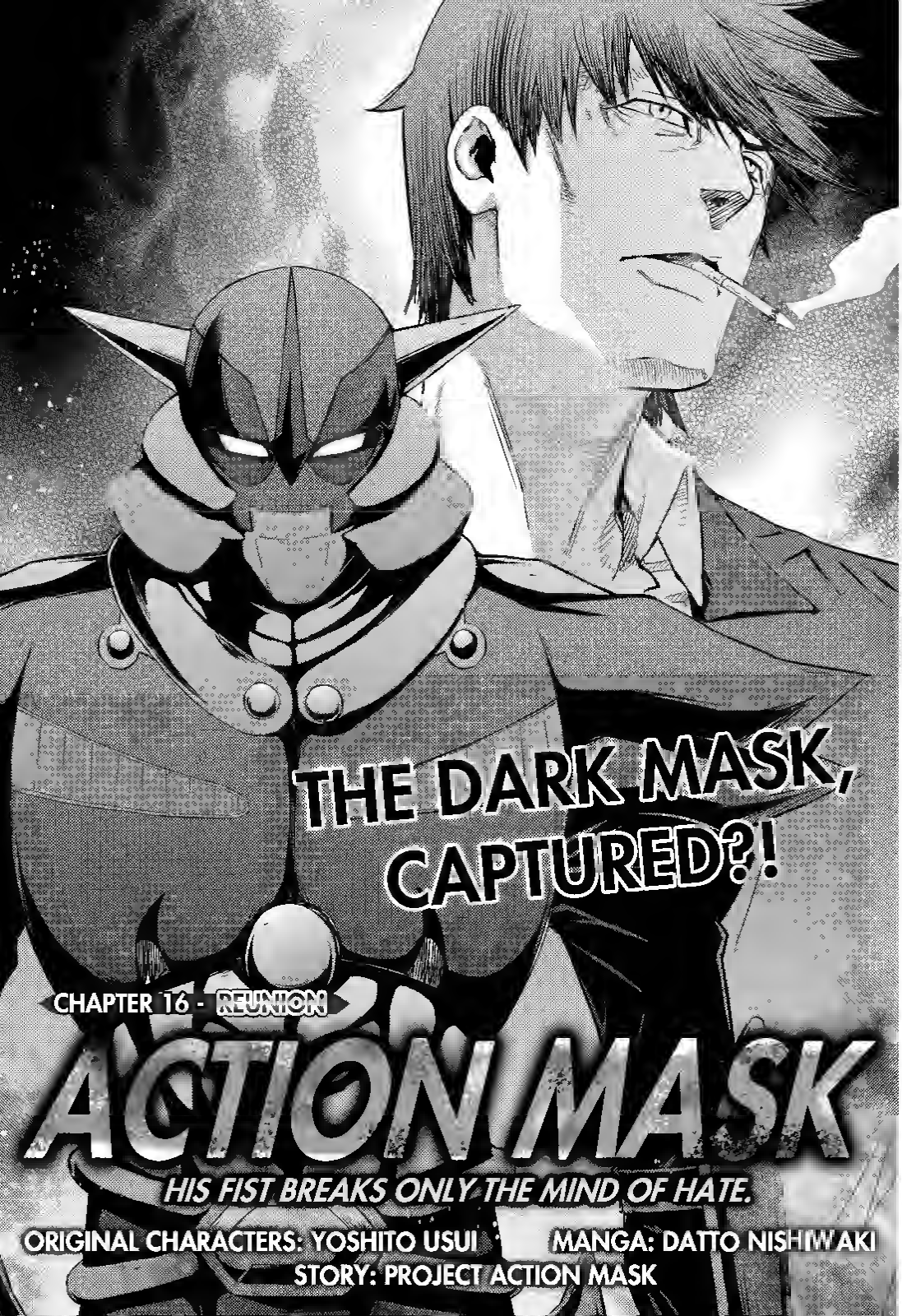
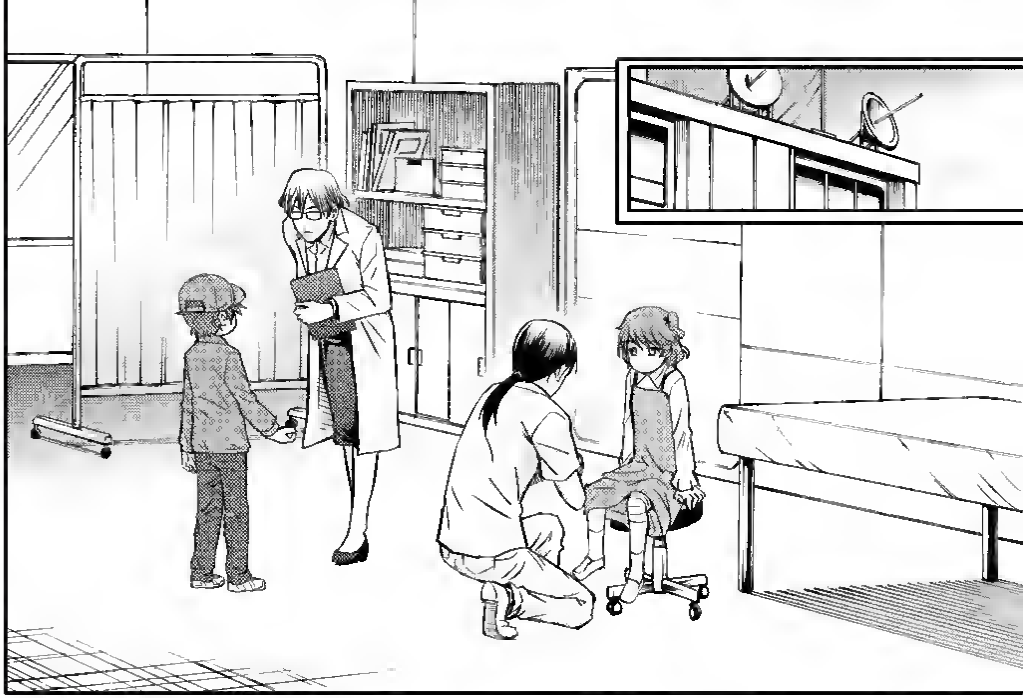
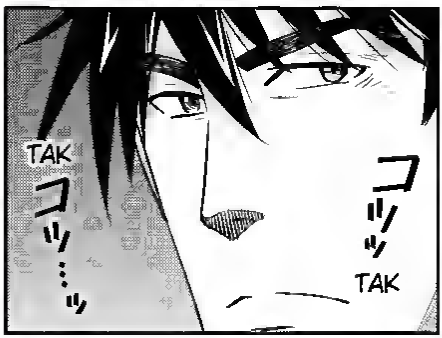
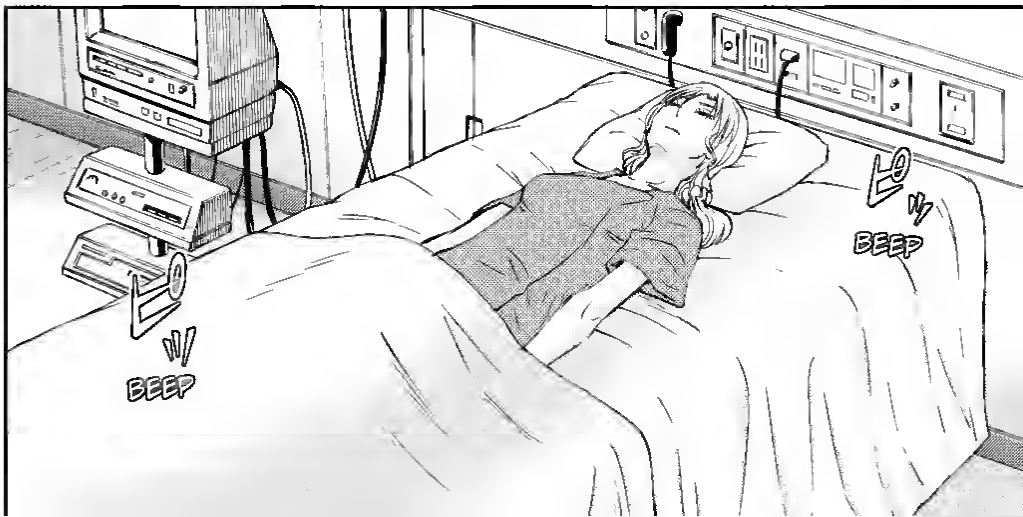
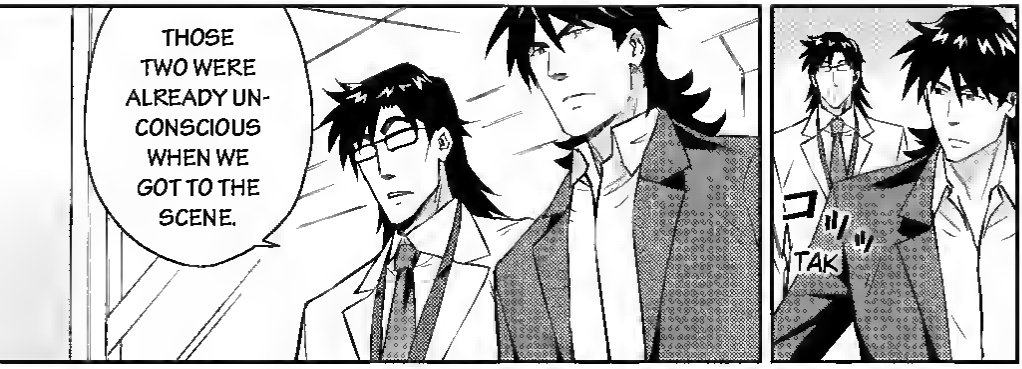

THE DARK MASK, CAPTURED?!
CHAPTER 16 - REUNION
ACTION MASK
HIS FIST BREAKS ONLY THE MIND OF HATE.
ORIGINAL CHARACTERS: YOSHITO USUI
MANGA: DATTO NISHIWAKI
STORY: PROJECT ACTION MASK




TAK
コツ…ッ
コツッ
TAK


ピッ
BEEP
ピッ
BEEP

BEEP
BEEP

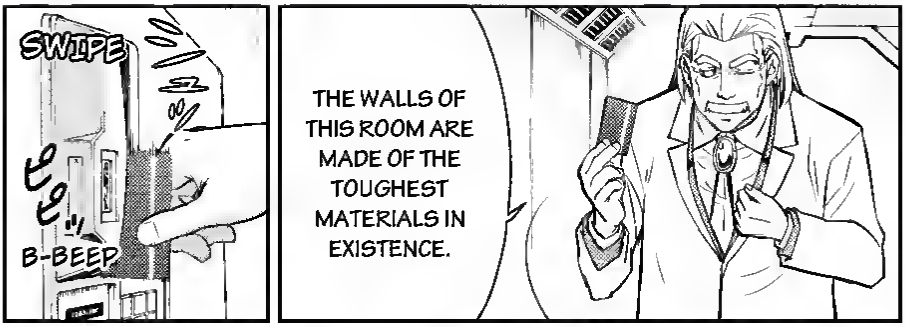

THOSE TWO WERE ALREADY UNCONSCIOUS WHEN WE GOT TO THE SCENE.
TAK

ACCORDING TO THE DOCTORS, MIMI-SAN HAD A CONCUSSION.
MATSUZAKA WAS SHOT BY MIMI'S TRANQ GUN
IT LOOKED LIKE A DOUBLE K.O.

HOWEVER, MIMI-SAN DID GIVE US A FALSE REPORT.
I DON'T KNOW.
..HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?
PERHAPS MIMI-SAN PLANNED ON DISOBEYING ORDERS RIGHT FROM THE START, INTENDING TO PUT MATSUZAKA DOWN BY HER-SELF.
ONLY SHE KNOWS WHAT REALLY HAP-PENED.

ABK LABORATORY
ISOLATION FACILITY
KLAT
KLAT

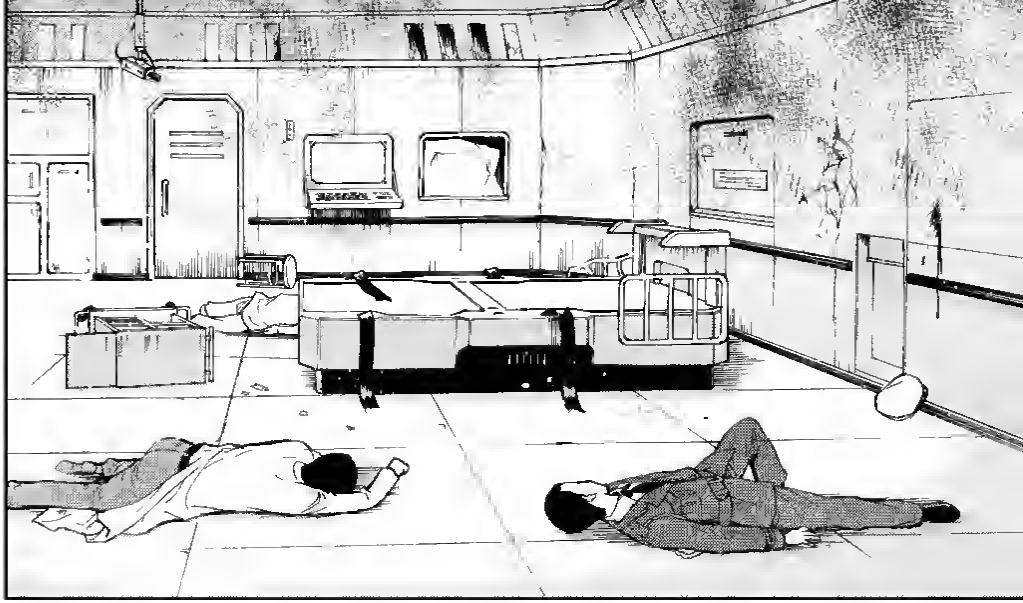
IN REGARDS TO MATSUZAKA'S CONDITION...
...HE WAS ALREADY ASLEEP WHEN WE GOT THERE.
IT SEEMS, AT LEAST, THAT REGULAR TRANQUILIZERS WORKED ON HIM...
カチャッ
KA-CHAK
IT MAY BE A WHILE UNTIL HE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS.
カッ
CLACK
ショッ
SHOOM
HOWEVER, WE DON'T KNOW HOW FAST HIS RECOVERY TIME IS, SINCE HE'S DARK MASK.
VOCAL PRINT, ANALYZED.
PEEP
OPEN UP.
HMM...
IT SEEMS HE'S AN ORDINARY PERSON WHEN IN HUMAN FORM.
ガシュッ
KA-THANG
SHOOP

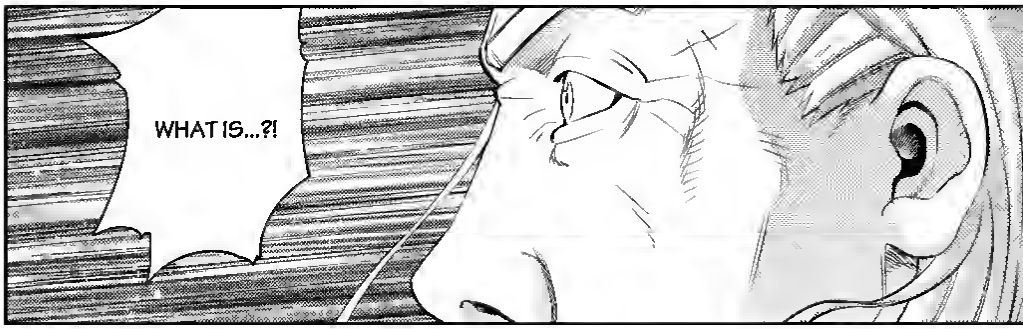

SWIPE
B-BEEP
THE WALLS OF THIS ROOM ARE MADE OF THE TOUGHEST MATERIALS IN EXISTENCE.

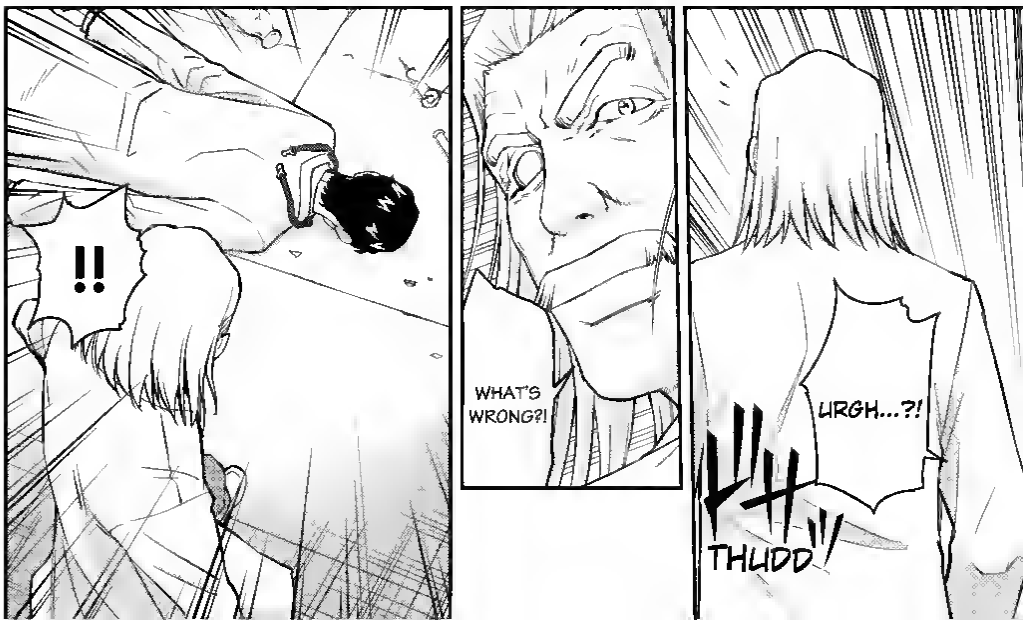
EVEN IF HE DID TRANSFORM INTO DARK MASK, BREAKING OUT OF HERE IS IMPOSSIBLE.
B-B-B-BEEP...

!!

SLIDE

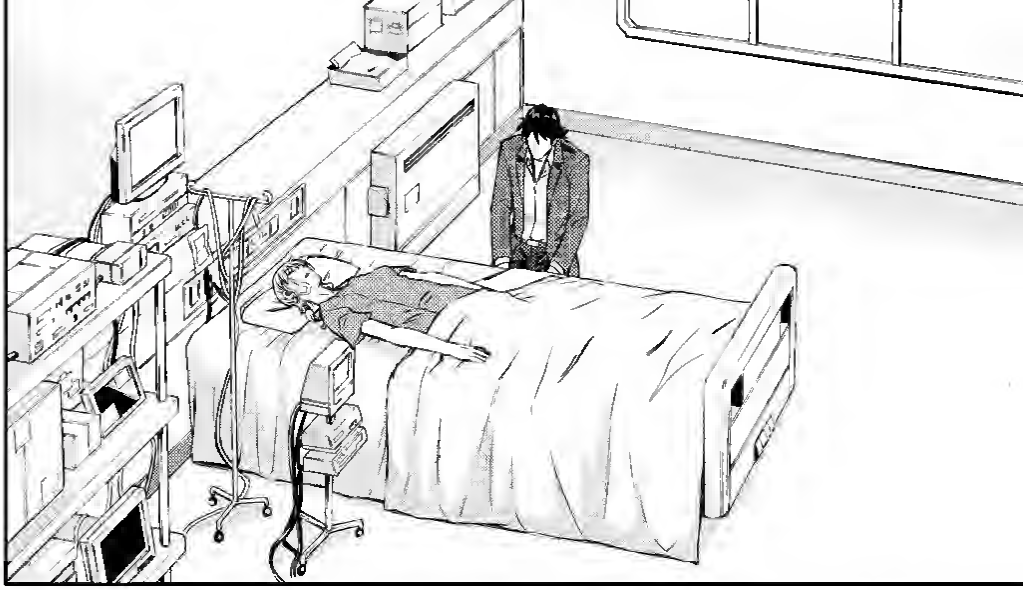



WHAT IS...?!

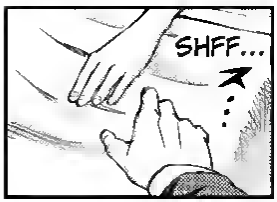

!!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
URGH...?!
THUDD

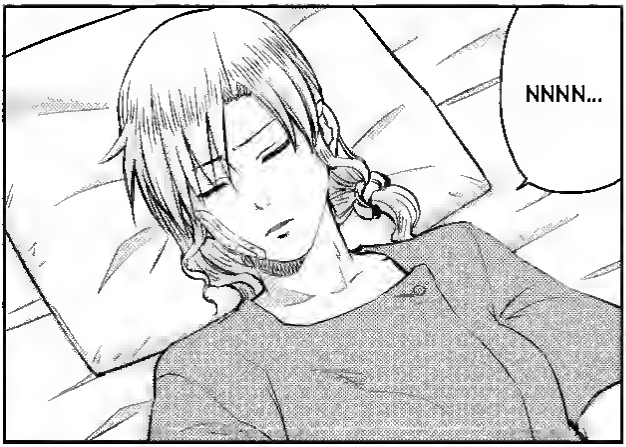
DON'T MOVE.
ヒタ…
PALISE

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, DOCTOR KITA KASUKABE.
GRIN
!!
YOU DO, AND I KILL YOU.
……!
IT'S YOU, ISN'T IT, MATSU-ZAKA-KUN...



MIMI...


SHFF...


NNNN...

HEY, GOU.
THE LINES HERE AREN'T CONNECTED, BUT...

MESSAGE FROM THE DOCTOR... FROM MATSUZAKA'S ROOM.
HE'S CALLING FOR YOU, SO HEAD OVER THERE.
WHAT IS IT?
YOU NEED SOMETHING?
MIMI?!
GOU...
MM-GH...
MLITTER
UH. OKAY.
YOU HEAD OVER TO THE DOCTOR.
IT'S OKAY, I'LL WATCH OVER HER.

HEAD OVER THERE IN THE ACTION SUIT, JUST IN CASE.
... WE DON'T KNOW WHEN MATSUZAKA WILL COME TO.
AH...
GOU!

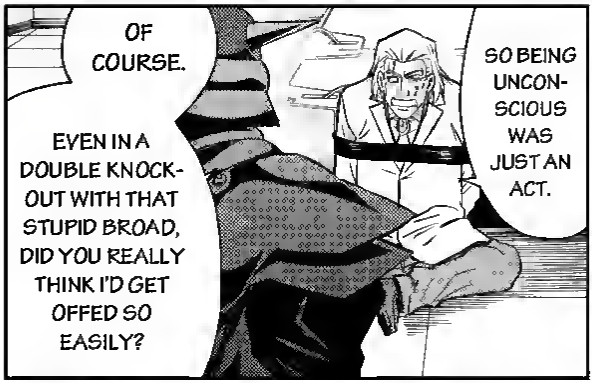
...GOT IT!

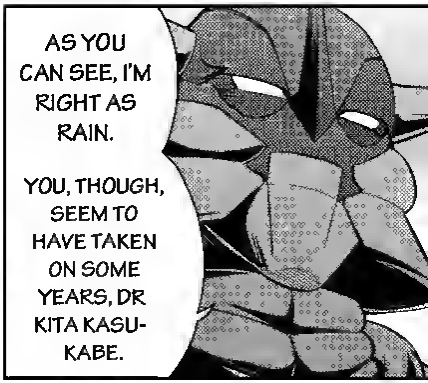
AKIHABA
Kamen?
WAS THAT...
...GOU?

D-D-DASH

REALLY, NOW.
IF YOU'D JUST FOLLOW ALONG, NO ONE WOULD'VE GOTTEN HURT.

MATSU-ZAKA-KUN...
SO YOU REALLY DIDN'T DIE IN THAT ACCIDENT.


OF COURSE.
EVEN IN A DOUBLE KNOCK-OUT WITH THAT STUPID BROAD, DID YOU REALLY THINK I'D GET OFFED SO EASILY?
SO BEING UNCON-SCIOUS WAS JUST AN ACT.


AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M RIGHT AS RAIN.
YOU, THOUGH, SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN ON SOME YEARS, DR KITA KASU-KABE.

HEH...

AND YOU COULD'VE ATTACKED AKB BEFORE WITHOUT EVER NEEDING TO RESORT TO THIS TACTIC!
IF GOU'S WHO YOU'RE AFTER, YOU WOULD HAVE DONE JUST AS WELL STAYING IN THE CITY.

WHY THE ACT, THOUGH?

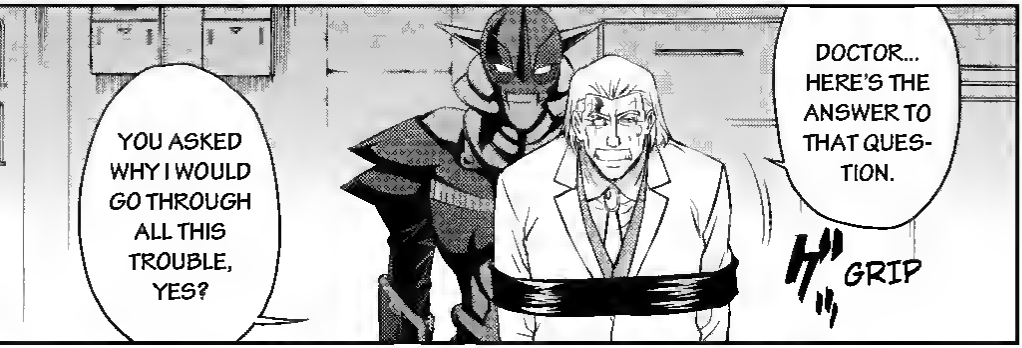
YES... IT'S EXACTLY AS YOU SAY.
I WAS PLANNING TO KILL HIM TODAY.
WHAT?!
BUT NOW I'VE CHANGED MY MIND.
THANKS TO THAT WOMAN.
I'VE NO USE FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T BECOME CONNECTORS
IF THEY CAN'T BE CONVINCED, THEN IT'S FAIR GAME TO JUST HAVE THEM DIE
WHAT HAPPENED WITH MIMI-KUN?

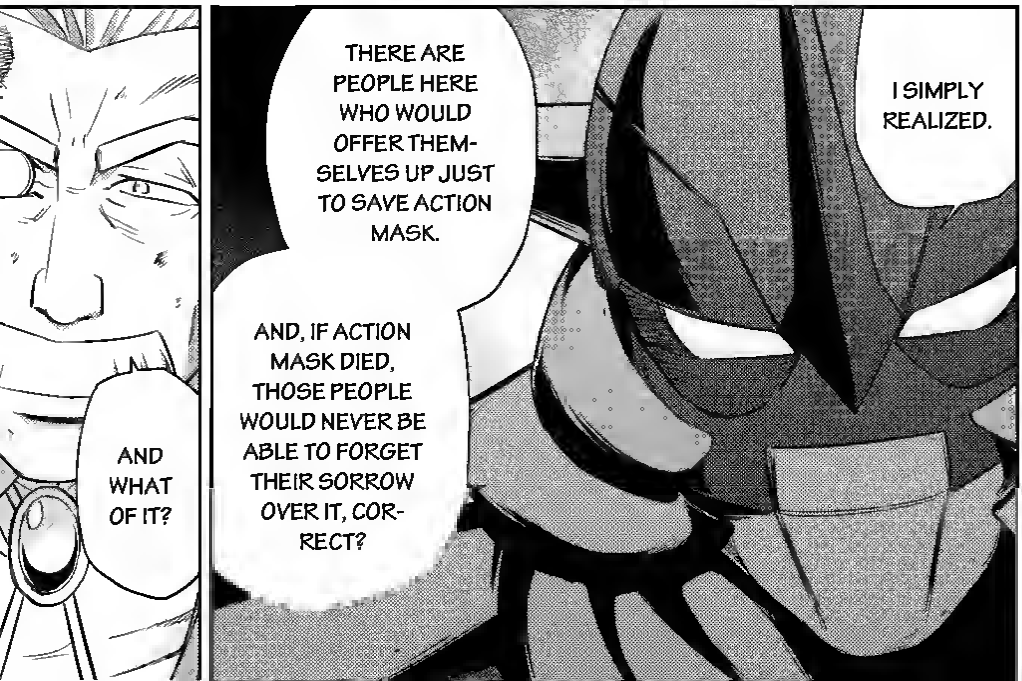
THAT THERE WERE MANY FRIENDS WHO WORRY ABDUT HIM AND WOULD MOURN HIS DEATH.
CLACK
THAT STUPID WDMAN TDLD ME SHE WAS THERE TO PRDTECT ACTION MASK
CLACK
WHAT'S THAT?
UPON HEARING THOSE WORDS, I REALIZED SDME-THING VERY IM-PDRTANT.
CLACK
D-D-D-DASH
YOU WANT TO KNOW?
THEN I'LL TELL YOU.

HOLD IT! MATSU-ZAKA!!
BAM
ス……
YOU'RE NOT HAVING YOUR WAY HERE!
LET THE DOCTOR GO!
HMPH...
SO YOU'RE FINALLY HERE, ACTION MASK.

GULP
ゴクリ
WHOA, THERE!
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER.
WELL, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF NOW OR LATER, ANYHOW.
SHUDDER...
ANY CLOSER, AND IT'S FAREWELL FOREVER FOR THE DOC.
ACTION MASK.
I UNDERES-TIMATED YOU.
NGH...
DASH
SHFF

WHAT WAS THAT...?
IT SEEMS YOU'VE GOTTEN SOME SOLID ALLIES, NO?


YOU ASKED WHY I WOULD GO THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE, YES?
DOCTOR... HERE'S THE ANSWER TO THAT QUES-TION.
GRIP

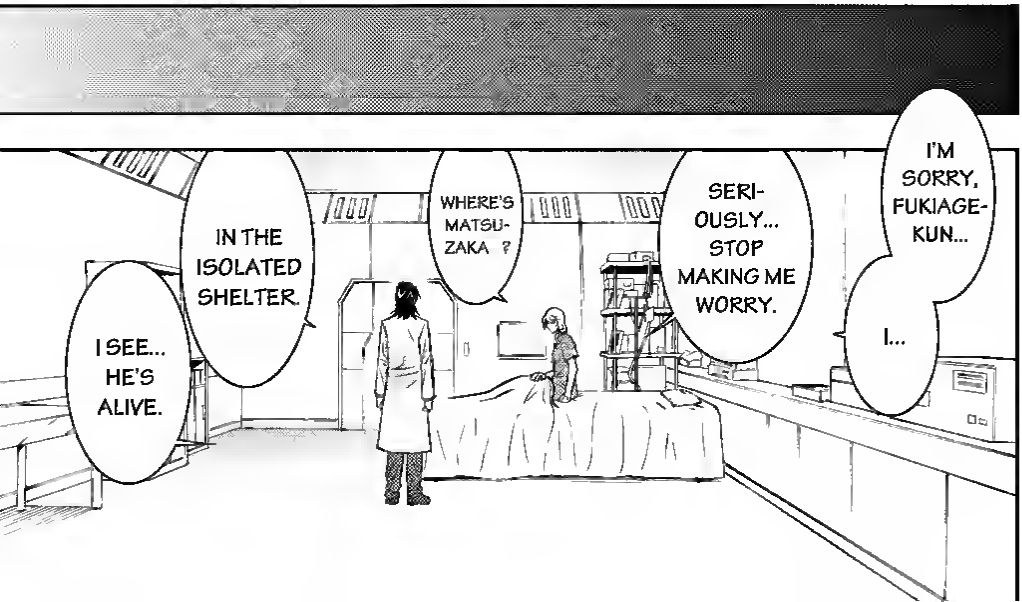

AND WHAT OF IT?
THERE ARE PEOPLE HERE WHO WOULD OFFER THEM-SELVES UP JUST TO SAVE ACTION MASK.
AND, IF ACTION MASK DIED, THOSE PEOPLE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO FORGET THEIR SORROW OVER IT, COR-RECT?
I SIMPLY REALIZED.

IF THAT'S THE CASE...
RATHER THAN KILL ACTION MASK, IT'D BE BETTER IF I JUST ERASE THOSE PEOPLE FIRST, AND LEAVE NOT ONE SOUL BEHIND.
I FIGURED, WOULDN'T THAT BE CONSIDERED KINDNESS?
.....!
DO YOU WANNA WIPE OUT ABK?!
YOU DON'T GET IT, CHUM.
IT'S MEANINGLESS TO SIMPLY WIPE YOU ALL OUT.
HGH...!
THE GOAL IS TO WIPE EVERYONE OUT RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES...!!
DID YOU SEE THAT WOMAN'S FACE?

POOR THING.
I BET HER FACE WILL SCAR.
NOW NO ONE'S GONNA ASK FOR HER HAND.
STOP IT...
GRIT
BUT NO NEED TO WORRY, I SUPPOSE
THAT BITCH'LL DIE SOON ENOUGH, ANYWAY.
BY MY HANDS, IN FRONT OF YOU...
TWITCH
GOU, NO!

YOU MUSTN'T GIVE IN TO THE HATE!
GOU, CALM DO—
DON'T INTERRUPT WHEN PEOPLE ARE TALKING!
SPAKK
UGGH!
RUDE LITTLE MAN...
YANK

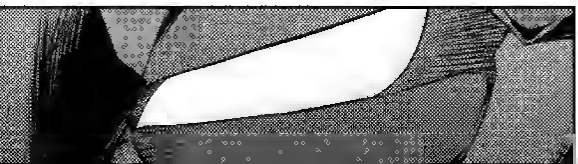
NO, GOU...!!
STOP RIGHT THERE!
CRACK
DASH


I'M SORRY, FUKIAGE-KUN...
I...
SERI-OUSLY... STOP MAKING ME WORRY.
WHERE'S MATSU-ZAKA ?
IN THE ISOLATED SHELTER.
I SEE... HE'S ALIVE.

THAT SUIT WASN'T MADE FOR YOU.
...WHY'D YOU DO ALL THAT BACK THERE?
THEN WHY..?!
WHAT HAPPENED OUT THERE? MIMI-SAN!!
I KNOW.
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT ALL TOO WELL.
THAT SUIT'S...
WHA...?!
MATSU-ZAKA'S DEAD SISTER WAS GOU'S GIRL-FRIEND!
BE-CAUSE—!

CRUNCH

...DARK MASK.
WHY IS IT THAT YOU'RE DRAWN TO PEOPLE WHO'D GRIEVE OVER MY DEATH?



WHAT'S WRONG, ACTION MASK?
THAT'S THE WALL.

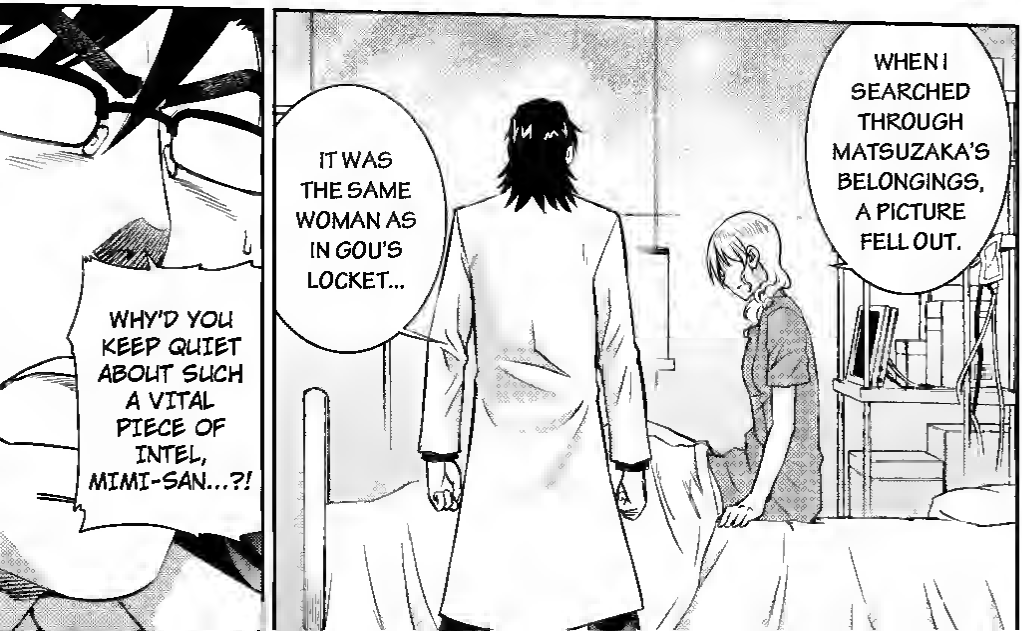
GRIT
WHY, YOU ASK?
A BOZO LIKE YOU HAS ALL THESE PEOPLE WHO'D CRY FOR YOU...!
POW
AND YET...!
AGCK...!

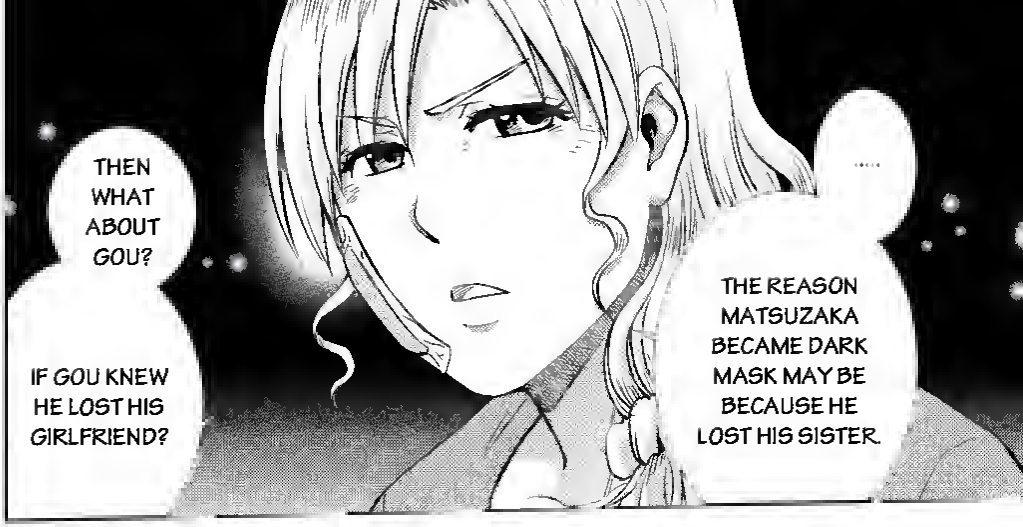
AND YET...
SHE...!
!
...SO IT'S YOUR SISTER.
YOUR LITTLE SISTER DIED IN THAT EXPLOSION, DIDN'T SHE?

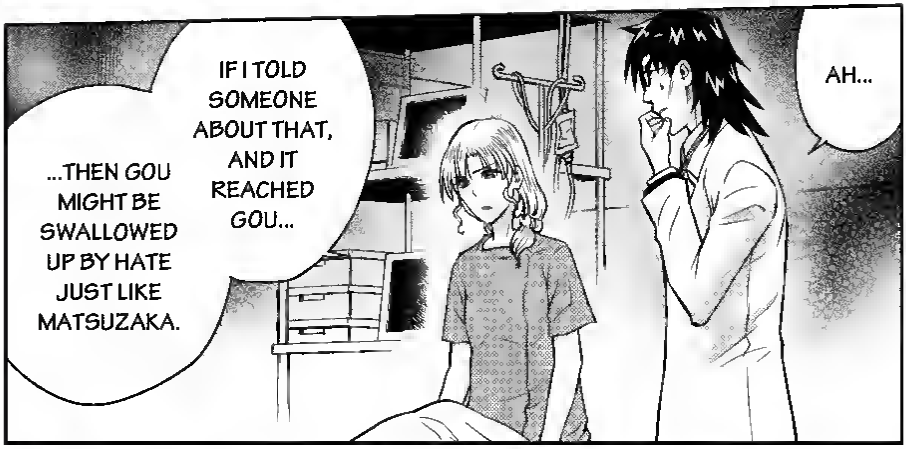
IS THAT IT...? I SEE NOW.
BUT NO ONE REMEMBERS HER DEATH...

FLINCH
WHY, YOU--!
DARK MASK... THAT'S THE SOURCE OF YOUR HATRED, ISN'T IT?
THE ANGER TOWARDS ALL THOSE SUPERFICIAL PEOPLE WHO'VE FORGOTTEN.
IT'S THE REGRET THAT HER DEATH IS FORGOTTEN.

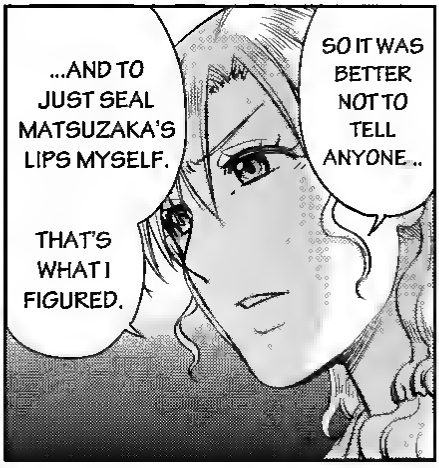
DON'T
YOU
SAY
THAT!!


WHEN I SEARCHED THROUGH MATSUZAKA'S BELONGINGS, A PICTURE FELL OUT.
IT WAS THE SAME WOMAN AS IN GOU'S LOCKET...
WHY'D YOU KEEP QUIET ABOUT SUCH A VITAL PIECE OF INTEL, MIMI-SAN...?!

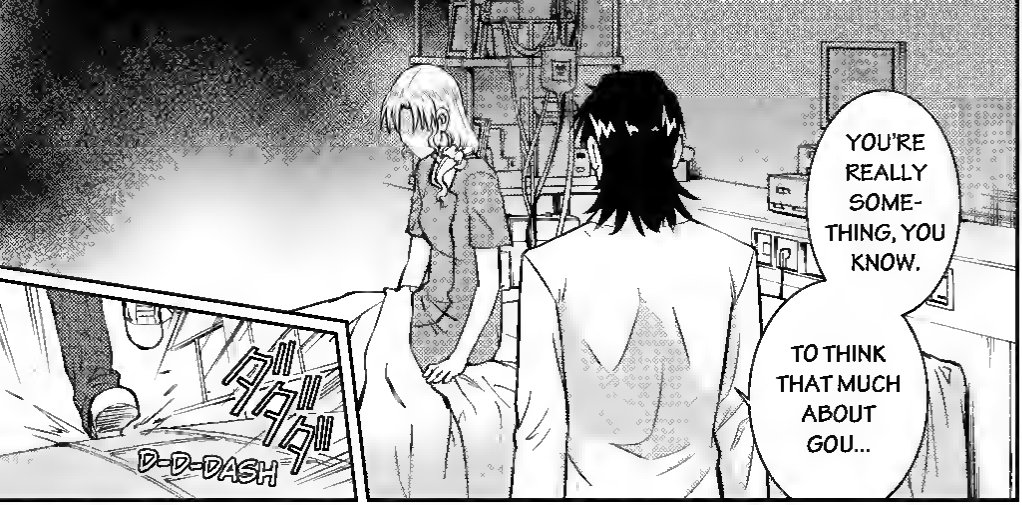

THEN WHAT ABOUT GOU?
IF GOU KNEW HE LOST HIS GIRLFRIEND?
.....
THE REASON MATSUZAKA BECAME DARK MASK MAY BE BECAUSE HE LOST HIS SISTER.


...THEN GOU MIGHT BE SWALLOWED UP BY HATE JUST LIKE MATSUZAKA.
IF I TOLD SOMEONE ABOUT THAT, AND IT REACHED GOU...
AH...

DID YOU THINK YOU COULD STOP HIM BY YOURSELF?


...AND TO JUST SEAL MATSUZAKA'S LIPS MYSELF.
THAT'S WHAT I FIGURED.
SO IT WAS BETTER NOT TO TELL ANYONE..

.....


D-D-DASH
YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING, YOU KNOW.
TO THINK THAT MUCH ABOUT GOU...

MISATO-CHAN?
THIS IS BAD!
FUKIAGE-SENSEI!
SLAM

WHAT...?!
GOU'S FIGHTING WITH THE DARK MASK!
THE DARK MASK PRETENDED TO GO DOWN SO HE COULD INFILTRATE HERE!
Kamen

IT CAN'T BE!
FUKI-AGE-KUN.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! GO TO GOU!
IT'S JUST GOU ALONE RIGHT NOW!
THE DOCTOR AND EVERYONE ELSE HAVE ALL BEEN TAKEN OUT!
GOU WITH HIS AMNESIA CAN'T POSSIBLY TALK MATSUZAKA OUT OF ANY-THING.
DASH!!
DAM-MIT...!
IT'LL JUST MAKE THINGS WORSE!
R-R-R-R-R-RUMBLE

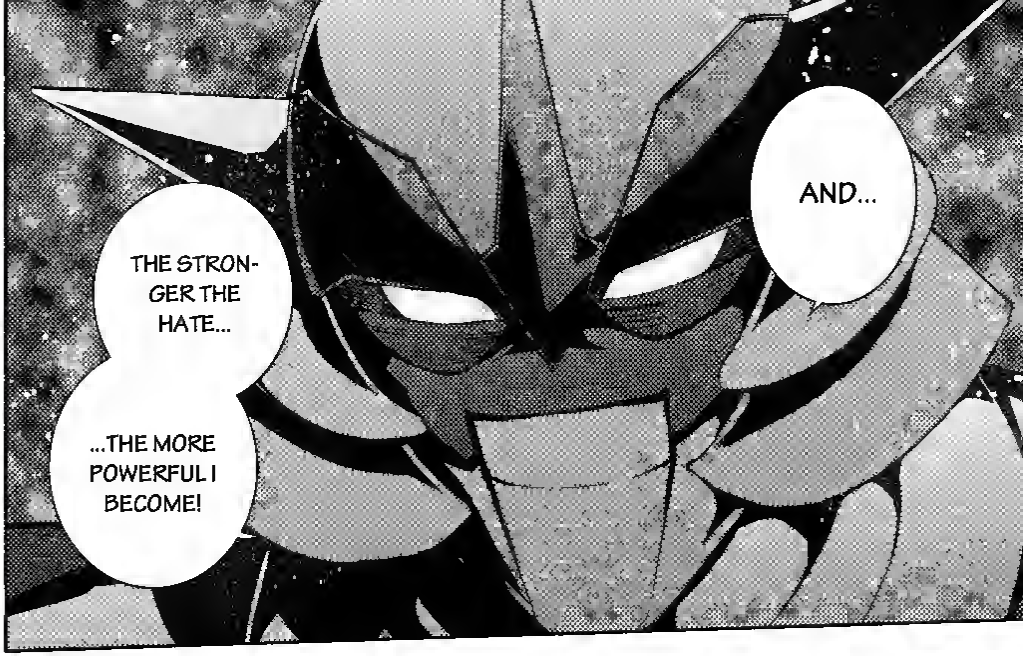
CLANGGG
CLANGGG
YOU SHOULD'VE KNOWN THIS, TOO!
YOUR SISTER WOULDN'T HAVE WANTED TO SEE YOU IN THIS STATE!
IT'S A PITY THAT YOUR SISTER'S DEAD!
IT'S AN UTTER TRAGEDY!
BUT HATING SOMEONE IS NOT GOING TO SOLVE ANYTHING!
IT'S NOT GOING TO BRING YOUR SISTER BACK!

CLANG
WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW—?
WHAT THE HELL WOULD YOU KNOW?!
CLANG
SHE WOULDN'T WISH FOR ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT!
EVEN LIKE THIS, YOU'RE STILL THINKING ABOUT HER!
CLANG
YOUR SISTER WOULDN'T PIN THE BLAME ON ANYBODY!
CLANG
KRAKKK

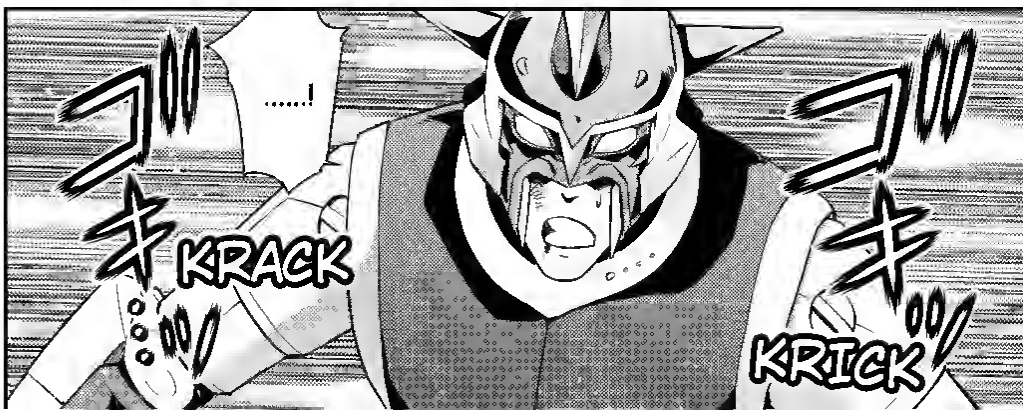
WHAT THE HELL?
DARK MASK'S EVEN STRONGER THAN BEFORE...
HRGH...!
WOBBLE...
WHY IS IT...?
WHY THE HELL WOULD SHE LOVE A HEARTLESS BASTARD LIKE YOU...?!
THUDDD

...?!
THOKK
THUD
GRRF!
SHFF

GAHK...!
CRASH
SHFF...
LET ME TEACH YOU SOMETHING BEFORE I KILL YOU.
YOUR WORDS ONLY SERVE TO AGITATE ME MORE.
HSHHHHHHH


AND...
THE STRON-GER THE HATE...
...THE MORE POWERFUL I BECOME!

グーン...
THOOM...
BZAK
ビキ...


.....!
KRACK
KRICK

RRUOO-
AAAAAH!!
RRRRRRUMBLE
GLARE
WHA...?!
DO YOU SEE NOW, ACTION MASK?
シュウウ...
WHISHH...

IT'S HATE THAT MAKES PEOPLE STRONGER.
ACTION MASK'S WORDS INFLAME DARK MASK'S FEELINGS?!
WITHOUT HATE, PEOPLE CAN'T LIVE ON...!
RRRRRRRRRUMBLE